

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A polynucleotide cassette construct for preparing an inverted repeat sequence of a target sequence consisting of:

an adaptor sequence bound to the target sequence,

a spacer sequence, and

an inverted sequence of the adaptor sequence bound to an inverted sequence of the target sequence, and

a target sequence bound to the adaptor sequence, the inverted sequence of the adaptor sequence, or both, wherein the target sequence is a target sequence in RNA interference.

2. (Original) The cassette construct according to claim 1, wherein the spacer sequence is an intron sequence.

3. (Currently Amended) The cassette construct according to claim 1, wherein either or both ends of the cassette construct have been pretreated prior to target sequence binding ligating the target sequence to the adapter sequence, wherein the pretreatment comprises any one of the following:

phosphorylation of the 5' end of either or both ends of [[a]] the cassette construct;

addition of (dT) to the 3' end of either or both ends of [[a]] the cassette construct;

addition of topoisomerase I and phosphorylation of a single 3' end of [[a]] the cassette construct; and

addition of (dT) and topoisomerase I to a single 3' end and phosphorylation of such 3' end of [[a]] the cassette construct.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Withdrawn) A method for preparing an amplification product comprising an inverted repeat sequence of a target sequence via PCR with the use of the cassette construct according to claim 1 as a template and a single primer derived from a sequence at either end of the target sequence.

6. (Withdrawn) A method for preparing an inverted repeat sequence of a target sequence via PCR with the use of the cassette construct according to claim 1 as a template.

7. (Previously Presented) A plasmid comprising the cassette construct according to claim 1.

8. (Withdrawn) A method for preparing an inverted repeat sequence of a target sequence via PCR with the use of the plasmid according to claim 7 as a template.

9. (Withdrawn) The method for preparing an inverted repeat sequence of a target sequence according to claim 8, wherein PCR is asymmetric PCR.

10. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 8, wherein a 3' end of a primer used in PCR contains a spacer sequence.

11. (Currently Amended) An expression vector for RNA interference comprising an amplification product, wherein said amplification product comprises:

a target sequence, an inverted repeat sequence of a target sequence, an adaptor sequence, a spacer sequence, [[and]] an inverted sequence of the adaptor sequence, and an inverted sequence of the target sequence, in that order.

12. (Original) A host cell transformed with the expression vector according to claim 11.

13. (Currently Amended) The cassette construct according to claim 2, wherein either or both ends of the cassette construct have been pretreated prior to ligating the target sequence to the adapter sequence target sequence binding, wherein the pretreatment comprises any one of the following:

phosphorylation of the 5' end of either or both ends of [[a]] the cassette construct;

addition of (dT) to the 3' end of either or both ends of [[a]] the cassette construct;

addition of topoisomerase I and phosphorylation of a single 3' end of [[a]] the cassette construct; and

addition of (dT) and topoisomerase I to a single 3' end and phosphorylation of such 3' end of [[a]] the cassette construct.

14. – 15. (Canceled)

16. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 9, wherein a 3' end of a primer used in PCR contains a spacer sequence.

17. (Previously Presented) An expression vector comprising the cassette construct according to claim 3.

18. – 19. (Canceled)

20. (Currently Amended) A cassette construct for preparing an inverted repeat sequence of a target sequence, the construct comprising a target sequence, an adaptor sequence, a spacer sequence, [[and]] an inverted sequence of the adaptor sequence, and an inverted sequence of the target sequence,

wherein the spacer sequence is between the adaptor sequence and the inverted sequence of the adaptor sequence.